From 'Russian Full Circle' by Oliver and Furniss

Первый круг
Russian Full Circle
A First-Year Russian Textbook

Donna Oliver
Beloit College

with Edie Furniss
The Pennsylvania State University

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Introduction

Алфавит (Alphabet)

The Russian alphabet contains 33 letters. Some of these letters resemble letters of the English alphabet in appearance and sound, while some resemble English letters in appearance, but represent a different sound or phoneme. Still others differ from English letters in appearance, but represent phonemes that are present in English. And then there are a few that both do not look like English letters and represent phonemes that are absent from the English language.

The following Russian letters look and sound similar to their English counterparts:

Аа	**парк**	pronounced a as in father
Ее	**секрет**	pronounced ye as in yet
Кк	**концерт**	pronounced k as in kite
Мм	**Москва**	pronounced m as in mother
Оо	**спорт**	pronounced o as in more
Тт	**мотор**	pronounced t as in tiger

The following Russian letters look like their English counterparts, but are pronounced differently:

Вв	**сувенир**	pronounced v as in very
Нн	**клоун**	pronounced n as in nest
Рр	**Россия**	pronounced r as in the Spanish word *pero*; the Russian **р** is a flapped r, meaning the r is rolled once
Сс	**сюрприз**	pronounced s as in sun
Уу	**фигура**	pronounced u as in room

The following letters look unfamiliar, but make sounds similar to those used in English:

Бб	**баскетбол**	pronounced b as in ball
Гг	**гитара**	pronounced g as in girl; pronounced v in some words (noted in the text)
Дд	**директор**	pronounced d as in dog
Ёё	**шофёр**	pronounced yo as in New York[1]

[1]The dots above the ё are omitted except in textbooks or dictionaries, or when the meaning is ambiguous. It is necessary to memorize if a word has ё as opposed to е.

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Жж	**журналист**	pronounced zh as in treasure
Зз	**роза**	pronounced z as in zoo
Ии	**рис**	pronounced ee as in meet
Йй	**хоккей**	pronounced y as in joy
Лл	**шоколад**	pronounced l as in log
Пп	**парад**	pronounced p as in spill
Фф	**фонетика**	pronounced f as in fast
Цц	**офицер**	pronounced ts as in rats
Чч	**чемпион**	pronounced ch as in chimp
Шш	**машина**	pronounced sh as in shell
Ээ	**эксперимент**	pronounced eh as in bet
Юю	**юмор**	pronounced yu as in Utah
Яя	**яхта**	pronounced ya as in yacht

There are a few Russian letters that do not sound like any English letters or combination of letters:

Хх	**архитектура**	pronounced kh as in loch
Щщ	**Хрущёв**	pronounced shch as in fresh cheese
Ъъ	**объект**	**твёрдый знак** (hard sign); separates the preceding consonant and following vowel[1]
Ыы	**мыло**	pronounced ɨ as in bit, but with the tongue positioned farther back in the mouth
Ьь	**фильм**	**мягкий знак** (soft sign); palatalizes the preceding consonant

[1] indicating that the following vowel should be pronounced with a strong y [as in yes] sound at the beginning

The table on the next page contains the letters of the Russian alphabet in order, as well as the italic and cursive forms of those letters, their approximate English sounds, and their names. As you can see, some of the letters can take different forms. Learn to recognize each of these forms to avoid confusion while reading Russian.

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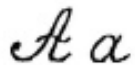
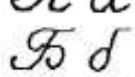
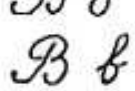
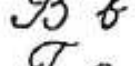
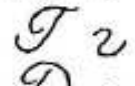
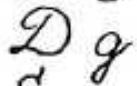
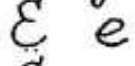
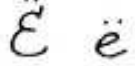
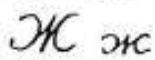
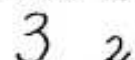
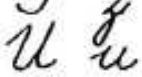
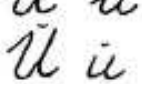
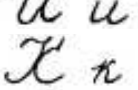
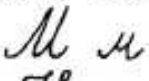
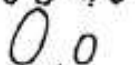
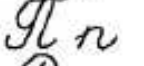
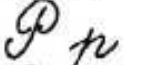
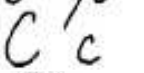
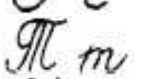
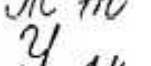
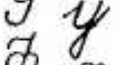
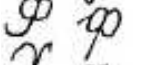
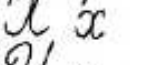
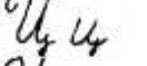
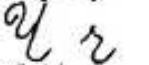
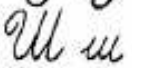
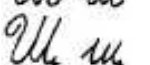
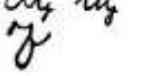
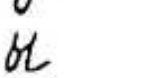
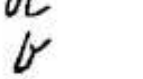
Letter	Italics	Cursive	English sound	Name
Аа	*Аа*		a	а
Бб	*Бб*		b	бэ
Вв	*Вв*		v	вэ
Гг	*Гг*		g	гэ
Дд	*Дд*		d	дэ
Ее	*Ее*		yeh	е
Ёё	*Ёё*		yoh	ё
Жж	*Жж*		zh	жэ
Зз	*Зз*		z	зэ
Ии	*Ии*		ee	и
Йй	*Йй*		y	и кра́ткое
Кк	*Кк*		k	ка
Лл	*Лл*		l	эль
Мм	*Мм*		m	эм
Нн	*Нн*		n	эн
Оо	*Оо*		oh	о
Пп	*Пп*		p	пэ
Рр	*Рр*		r	эр
Сс	*Сс*		s	эс
Тт	*Тт*		t	тэ
Уу	*Уу*		oo	у
Фф	*Фф*		f	эф
Хх	*Хх*		kh	ха
Цц	*Цц*		ts	цэ
Чч	*Чч*		ch	че
Шш	*Шш*		sh	ша
Щщ	*Щщ*		shch	ща
ъ	*ъ*		-	твёрдый знак
ы	*ы*		i	ы
ь	*ь*		-	мя́гкий знак
Ээ	*Ээ*		eh	э (э оборо́тное)
Юю	*Юю*		yoo	ю
Яя	*Яя*		yah	я

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Фонетика (Phonetics)

Гласные (Vowels)

Hardness and Softness

Hard	Soft
а	**я**
э	**е**
о	**ё**
у	**ю**
ы	**и**

Russian vowels occur in hard and soft pairs. The words *hard* and *soft* describe the consonants that precede the vowels, not the vowels themselves. Soft vowels cause the preceding consonant to be palatalized, or softened. A palatalized consonant is pronounced with the tongue raised toward the roof of the mouth. Consonants are also palatalized when they are followed by the soft sign **ь** (in transliteration, the soft sign is written as an apostrophe [’]). Not all consonants have a soft, or palatalized, form. For example, a soft sign following **ж**, **ц**, and **ш** has no effect on the pronunciation. Soft vowels following **ж**, **ц**, and **ш** are pronounced as their hard counterparts.

ж<u>и</u>вот (pronounced **ж<u>ы</u>вот**),
ц<u>е</u>нтр (pronounced **ц<u>э</u>нтр**),
ш<u>е</u>сть (pronounced **ш<u>э</u>сть**).

In addition, there are two consonants that remain palatalized even when followed by a hard vowel: **ч** and **щ**.

Ударение (Stress)

Russian words receive one stress. Stress is largely unpredictable, as in English, and is normally not indicated in Russian texts, so one must memorize where the stress falls in Russian words. The letter **ё** is always stressed, so stress is not indicated in words containing that letter. The vowel receiving stress in a word is pronounced according to the previous charts; some vowels, however, are pronounced differently when not under stress. While there are many such exceptions, this section will cover only some of the more commonly encountered ones.

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1. When **о** and **а** are unstressed and located at the beginning of a word, or in the syllable immediately preceding the stressed syllable, they are pronounced as a reduced, or less distinct, **а**.

   At the beginning of a word: **Америка**, **олигарх**
   In the syllable immediately preceding the stressed syllable: **Мɒсква**, **журнaлист**

2. When **о** and **а** are unstressed and located in any other position in a word, they are pronounced uh.

   мɒлокɒ, **сaмовар**

3. When **я** and **е** are unstressed and immediately follow a soft consonant, they are pronounced like a short **и**.

   пятьдесят, **телефон**

4. When **я** and **е** are unstressed and located at the beginning of a word, they are pronounced yi as in yip.

   язык, **еда**

5. When **я** and **е** are unstressed and occur in a noun ending, they are pronounced uh.

   морe, **биолɒгия**

Согласные (Consonants)

Russian consonants are separated into two groups: voiced and voiceless. Voiced consonants are pronounced with the vibration of the vocal cords; voiceless consonants are pronounced without. Some of the voiced consonants correspond to voiceless counterparts.

Voiced	Voiceless
б	**п**
в	**ф**
г	**к**
д	**т**
ж	**ш**
з	**с**

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The remaining consonants do not occur in pairs:

Voiced: **л**, **м**, **н**, **р**
Voiceless: **х**, **ц**, **ч**, **щ**

1. Voiced consonants are pronounced like their voiceless counterparts when they are located at the end of a word.

   зуб [**зуп**]
   плов [**плоф**]
   долг [**долк**]
   год [**гот**]
   муж [**муш**]

2. If a voiceless consonant occurs immediately after a voiced consonant, both consonants are pronounced as voiceless.

   лодка [**лотка**]
   вчера [**фчера**]
   в пятницу [**ф пятницу**]

3. Similarly, if a voiced consonant occurs immediately after a voiceless consonant, both consonants are pronounced as voiced.

   футбол [**фудбол**]
   как дела [**каг дела**]

4. A preposition and the word following it are pronounced as one word with one stress. The previous rules regarding voiced and voiceless consonants, therefore, apply there.

   с Димой [**з Димой**]
   без Петра [**бес Петра**]

5. Sometimes one of the consonants in a consonant cluster is not pronounced.

   здравствуйте [**здраствуйте**]

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Интонация (Intonation)

In English when we want to ask a question and we're not using a question word (who, what, when, where, etc.), we invert the subject and verb:

This is a map. Is this a map?
He is working. Is he working?

In Russian, the word order stays the same; it is only through our intonation (or by a question mark in writing) that we convey the interrogative:

Э́то карта. Э́то карта?
Он рабо́тает. Он рабо́тает?

Intonation is a natural by-product of good listening and imitation, and does not need to have a lot of special attention given to it. Just keep in mind that you are speaking another language, trying to communicate ideas in the way that native speakers communicate them, and this does not simply involve substituting the right words. The manner in which something is said—the pronunciation, accent, and intonation—is just as important as the words themselves. Don't be afraid to exaggerate when speaking: you're speaking Russian, so why shouldn't you have a Russian accent?

Capitalization

The rules of capitalization are rather different in Russian than in English. As in English, proper nouns are capitalized, as is the first word of a sentence. However, there are some instances where we would use capitalization in English, but not in Russian.

1. The first person singular pronoun **я** is not capitalized unless it is the first word of a sentence.

2. Nouns and adjectives denoting nationalities are not capitalized.

   америка́нец, ру́сский

3. Words following the first word of a title, the name of a holiday or an organization are not capitalized.

   Война́ и мир, **Но́вый год**, **Комите́т госуда́рственной безопа́сности** (**КГБ**)

4. Days of the week and months are also not capitalized.

   янва́рь, понеде́льник

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Упражне́ние 1: Write the following words out three times each, in cursive.

1. где где
2. мел мел
3. как как
4. мой мой
5. май май
6. дом дом
7. окно́ окно
8. парк парк
9. ёжик ёжик
10. жена́ жена
11. вино́ вино
12. бана́н банан
13. во́дка водка
14. ви́ски виски
15. ла́мпа лампа
16. дра́ма драма
17. бага́ж багаж
18. ра́дио радио
19. ко́смос космос
20. о́пера опера
21. а́дрес адрес
22. пикни́к пикник
23. гара́ж гараж
24. кни́га книга
25. соба́ка собака
26. пингви́н пингвин
27. Москва́ Москва
28. Аме́рика Америка
29. Ленингра́д Ленинград
30. Кана́да Канада
31. инжене́р инженер
32. ребёнок ребёнок
33. испа́нский испанский
34. англи́йский английский
35. колле́га коллега
36. ко́лледж колледж

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Упражне́ние 2: Write the following words out three times each, in cursive.

1. моя́ моя
2. э́то это
3. врач врач
4. бу́ква буква
5. бума́га бумага
6. что что
7. газе́та газета
8. ру́чка ручка
9. ка́рта карта
10. письмо́ письмо
11. стол стол
12. борщ борщ
13. фру́кты фрукты
14. каранда́ш карандаш
15. това́рищ товарищ
16. плюс плюс
17. кольцо́ кольцо
18. поэ́т поэт
19. рюкза́к рюкзак
20. уче́бник учебник
21. худо́жник художник
22. дверь дверь
23. профе́ссор профессор
24. плохо́й плохой
25. краси́вый красивый
26. царь царь
27. чёрный чёрный
28. большо́й большой
29. фи́зик физик
30. кровь кровь
31. журна́л журнал
32. ще́дрый щедрый
33. изве́стный известный
34. хорошо́ хорошо
35. преподава́тель преподаватель
36. аудито́рия аудитория
37. му́ха муха
38. студе́нтка студентка
39. америка́нский американский
40. компью́тер компьютер

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Abbreviations

acc.: accusative
dat.: dative
f.: feminine
fam.: familiar
gen.: genitive
imperf.: imperfective
indec.: indeclinable
instr.: instrumental
irreg.: irregular
m.: masculine
nom.: nominative
perf.: perfective
pl.: plural
prep.: prepositional
sing.: singular

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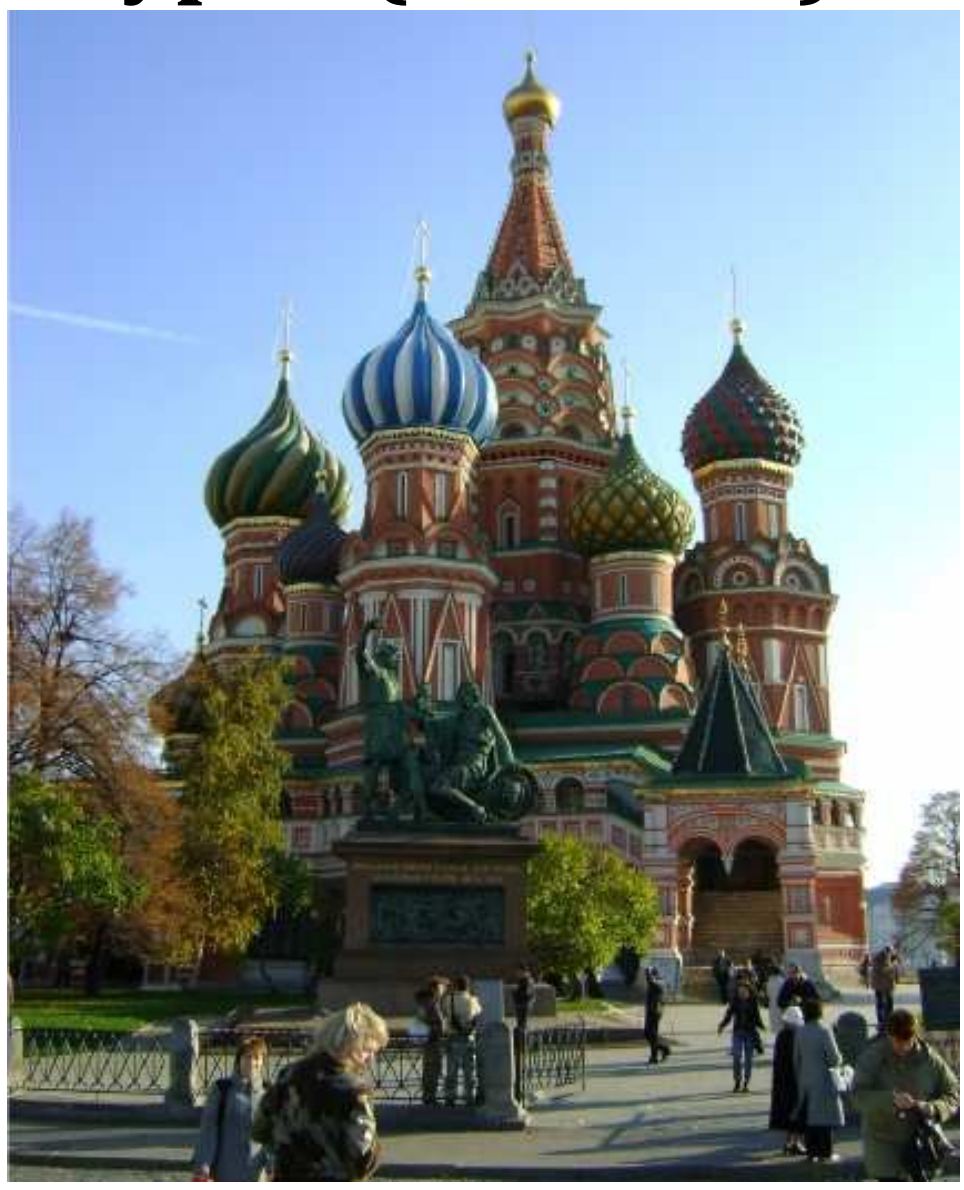
Первый урок (Lesson 1)



Communicative content

In this lesson, you will learn how to:

- greet people, ask their name, and give them your name
- ask and answer the question “How are you?”
- ask for information about and describe people and objects
- use a variety of polite phrases and expressions in everyday conversation
- understand Russian first names and patronymics and how they are formed

Grammatical content

In this lesson, you will learn how to:

- determine the gender of nouns
- form the plural of nouns
- combine adjectives, possessive pronouns, and nouns so that they agree in gender and number in the nominative case

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Словарь (Vocabulary)

Существительные (Nouns)

артист: performer, entertainer (m.)
артистка: performer, entertainer (f.)
бизнесмен: businessman
врач: doctor
инженер: engineer
писатель: writer
поэт: poet
президент: president
преподаватель: college teacher, instructor
профессор: professor
спортсмен: athlete (m.)
спортсменка: athlete (f.)
студент: student (m.)
студентка: student (f.)
художник: artist
юрист: lawyer

аудитория: classroom
буква: letter
бумага: paper
газета: newspaper
дверь (f.): door
дом: house
доска: (chalk)board
журнал: magazine
кабинет: office
карандаш: pencil
карта: map
картина: picture
книга: book
кольцо: ring
комната: room
компьютер: computer
лампа: lamp, light
мел: chalk
море: sea
окно: window
письмо: letter
плакат: poster
ручка: pen
рюкзак: backpack
словарь: dictionary
слово: word
стена: wall
стол: table
стул: chair
тетрадь (f.): notebook
учебник: textbook

американец: American (m.)
американка: American (f.)

Прилагательные (Adjectives)

американский: American
русский: Russian
большой: big, large
маленький: little, small

белый: white
чёрный: black
красный: red
синий: dark blue
хороший: good, fine
плохой: bad, poor

новый: new
старый: old
молодой: young

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интересный: interesting
известный: famous

красивый: beautiful
некрасивый: ugly
симпатичный: nice, cute

такой: such, so
какой: what kind of? what a...!

Наречия (Adverbs)

да: yes
нет: no
не: not

где: where
вот: here is
здесь: here
тут: here
там: there

Союзы (Conjunctions)

и[1]: and
а[2]: and

но: but
или: or

[1]**и** is used to unite things
[2]**а** is used as a mild *but*; it separates rather than unites

Личные местоимения (Personal pronouns)

я: I
ты: you
он: he
она: she
оно: it

мы: we
вы: you
они: they

Притяжательные местоимения (Possessive pronouns)

мой: my (m.)	**моя**: my (f.)	**моё**: my (n.)	**мои**: my (pl.)
твой: your (m.)	**твоя**: your (f.)	**твоё**: your (n.)	**твои**: your (pl.)
наш: our (m.)	**наша**: our (f.)	**наше**: our (n.)	**наши**: our (pl.)
ваш[1]: your (m.)	**ваша**: your (f.)	**ваше**: your (n.)	**ваши**: your (pl.)

его[2]: his **её**: her **их**: their

[1]plural or formal
[2]pronounced **ево**

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Вопросительные местоимения (Interrogative pronouns)

что[1]: what
кто: who

чей, чья, чьё, чьи: whose

[1] pronounced **што**

Выражения (Expressions)

Э́то...	This is..., these are...
Как вас/тебя зову́т?	What's your name?
Меня зову́т...	My name is...
А вас/тебя?	And you?
О́чень приятно.	Pleased to meet you.
Кто вы/ты?	Who are you (by profession)?
Я...	I am a...
Что значит [слово]...?	What does [the word]... mean?
Как это по-русски?	What is this in Russian?
Как по-русски... ?	What is... in Russian?
Как это по-английски?	What is this in English?
Как по-английски... ?	What is... in English?
Что э́то [тако́е]?	What is that?
Кто э́то [тако́й/така́я]?	Who is that?
Я не зна́ю.	I don't know.
Здра́вствуй(те)	Hello
Приве́т	Hi
До́брое у́тро	Good morning
До́брый день	Good day
До́брый ве́чер	Good evening
Как у вас/тебя́ дела́?	How are you doing?
А у вас/тебя́?	And you?
Хорошо́	Good
Непло́хо	Not bad
Норма́льно	OK
Ничего́[1]	All right
Пло́хо	Bad
До свида́ния	Good-bye
Пока́	Bye

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Спасибо	Thank you
Пожалуйста	Please / You're welcome
Скажите, пожалуйста...	Tell me, please...
Что-что?	What's that [you said]?
Повторите, пожалуйста.	Repeat, please.
Молодец!	Well done!
ну...	well...
понятно	[it's] understood

[1] pronounced **ничево**

Notes about new vocabulary

1. Note the distinction between the words **артист/артистка** and **художник. Артист/артистка** refers to performing artists: actors and actresses, dancers, singers, etc., while **художник** refers to fine artists such as painters.

2. The word for *whose* in Russian is declinable and reflects gender and number.

Чей это журнал?	Whose magazine is this?
Чья это тетрадь?	Whose notebook is this?
Чьё это письмо?	Whose letter is this?
Чьи это бумаги?	Whose papers are these?

3. The adjective **русский** can be used to designate nationality as well:

Он русский?	Is he Russian?
Нина русская.	Nina is Russian.
Новые студенты русские.	The new students are Russian.

The adjective **американский** can be used only to modify a noun:

Э́то известный американский спортсмен.
This is a famous American athlete.

To express that a person is an American, you must use the nouns **американец/американка**:

Наш преподаватель американец.
Our teacher is American.

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Э́мили не русская. Она американка.
Emily isn't Russian. She's American.

Note that the plural for **американец** is **американцы**. The omission of the **е** in the ending is explained in the next lesson.

Падежи (Cases)

Learning Russian correctly means learning grammar, and that means English grammar as well as Russian grammar. You might want to begin by reviewing grammar terms and their usage. Russian differs from English in many ways, but there are two ways that must be noted at the beginning. First, Russian in most situations has no present tense form of the verb *to be*. Second, Russian does not use definite or indefinite articles, that is, no *the*, no *a*. If you want to say, for example, *I am a student*, you simply say **Я студент** (literally, *I student*). Learn to appreciate these small gifts of simplicity. Most of the grammar is significantly more complex and involves a tremendous amount of memorization. At the same time, Russian is for the most part an extremely logical language; it is both challenging and fun.

Russian is an inflected language, which means that the basic form of a word will change according to the role it plays in the sentence. In English, which is not a highly inflected language, we see this kind of change occurring mainly in personal and interrogative pronouns.

He saw *me*. I saw *him*.
Whom did you see?
With *whom* were you speaking?

I becomes *me* and *he* becomes *him* when they follow the verb, that is, when they function as the direct object. Similarly, *who* becomes *whom* when it functions as the direct object or as the object of the preposition *with*.

Russian is a highly inflected language, which means that changes of this type in the basic form of the word are going to occur quite frequently, and not just in these types of pronouns, but in nouns, adjectives, and possessive pronouns as well. To make matters even more complicated, Russian is a gendered language, which means that all nouns have gender, regardless of whether they are animate or inanimate. In English, women are *she* and men are *he*, and except for family pets and an occasional sailing vessel, just about everything else is *it*. In Russian, every noun, both concrete and abstract, has its own gender, which is determined, for the most part, by the final letter in its basic form. Adjectives and possessive pronouns used with nouns will then change form to reflect the gender of the noun. If you take a *possessive pronoun + adjective + noun phrase* (e.g., *my new teacher*) and place it after the verb or after a preposition or in any spot where it functions as something other than the subject, that phrase will then play a different role in the sentence and the form of each word within it must now reflect that new role. Changes will also occur if a noun is plural instead

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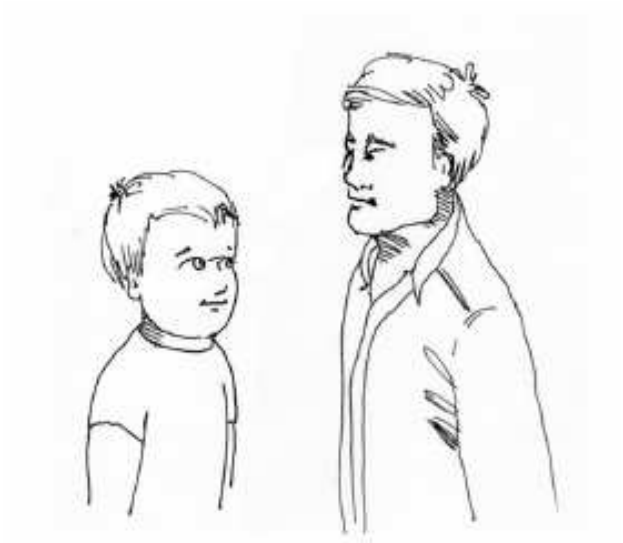
of singular. Modifiers will no longer reflect gender, but they will now reflect the plural number. Plural forms will also change according to their function within the sentence.

One of the results of these changes is that word order is not as important in determining meaning; instead, it is the ending placed on each word that tells you what function that word has in the sentence. For example, in the English sentence *The boy saw the man*, word order tells us who saw whom. If we switch the two nouns, the meaning of the sentence changes: *The man saw the boy*. In Russian, the meaning of this sentence is essentially the same, regardless of the placement of the nouns.



Мальчик увидел человека.
Человека увидел мальчик.

The only way we can tell the subject from the direct object in the Russian sentences is by the **а** ending placed on the word for *man*, **человек**. There are some basic patterns for word order having to do with emphasis and the introduction of new material (we'll be looking at them later), but the grammatical meaning of the sentence stays the same (that is, who saw whom).

The place a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase occupies within a sentence is defined by cases, and Russian has six cases: nominative (**именительный падеж**), genitive (**родительный падеж**), dative (**дательный падеж**), accusative (**винительный падеж**), instrumental (**творительный падеж**), and prepositional (**предложный падеж**). The basic form of a word is in the nominative case. Noun, pronoun, and adjective entries in a dictionary will appear in this case. This is the case that expresses the subject of a sentence, the thing or person performing the action of the verb. It is also used when a noun or pronoun is the object of the word **это**, *this is/is this?*, or when it is the object of the absent present tense verb *to be*.

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Именительный падеж (Nominative case)

Я студентка.
I am a student.

Э́то Никола́й Ива́нович. Он инжене́р.
This is Nikolai Ivanovich. He is an engineer.

Надежда Петровна врач.
Nadezhda Petrovna is a doctor.

Существительные (Nouns)

Единственное число (Singular)

It is from the nominative form of nouns that we can determine gender. Russian has three possible genders — masculine, feminine, neuter — and within each of these there are two types of endings: hard and soft. The following chart illustrates noun endings in the nominative case.

Masculine		Feminine		Neuter	
Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft
zero	**-й, -ь**	**-а**	**-я, -ь**	**-о**	**-е, -ё**

Feminine nouns ending in **-ь** have their own special endings that must be memorized. The gender of nouns ending in **-ь** will be marked in your vocabulary lists only if they are feminine. Otherwise, you can assume that they are masculine.

Множественное число (Plural)

Plurals of nouns are formed in Russian by changing the endings. In the nominative case, masculine and feminine nouns take the same endings. Neuter nouns form their plurals differently. Since masculine hard nouns have a *zero* ending, the plural is formed by adding the ending (**-ы**/**-и**). For all other noun types (masculine soft, feminine, and neuter), you must first remove the singular ending before adding the plural ending.

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Masculine		Feminine		Neuter	
Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft
-ы	**-и**	**-ы**	**-и**	**-а**	**-я**

кабинет → кабинеты
студент → студенты
инженер → инженеры
комната → комнаты
аудитория → аудитории
преподаватель → преоподаватели

Two-syllable neuter nouns undergo a stress shift in the plural. If the stress falls on the second syllable in the singular, it will fall on the first syllable in the plural. If it falls on the first syllable in the singular, it will fall on the second syllable in the plural.

окно → окна
письмо → письма
слово → слова
море → моря
кольцо → кольца

Исключения (Exceptions)

Like most languages, Russian has some irregular plural forms. Some of these plurals are formed from completely different words; others just add a different type of plural ending. We have a few nouns in this lesson that have irregular plural forms. We will be noting any irregular forms as we continue to build our vocabulary, and you would be wise to learn them as we go along.

1. There are a few nouns that form the plural by adding **-ья**. **Стул** is one of those words.

   стул → стулья

2. There are several masculine nouns that form the plural by adding a stressed **-а**/**-я** (**-а** to hard nouns, **-я** to soft nouns). We know two of these nouns: **дом**, **профессор**. Note the formation of their plurals.

   дом → дома
   профессор → профессора

3. In some masculine nouns a stress shift occurs whenever those nouns undergo a case or

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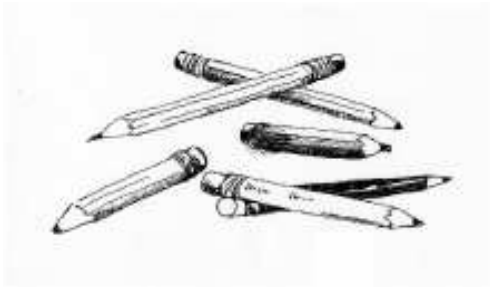
number change. That means any time you put an ending on them, that ending is going to take the stress. We have six such masculine nouns: **карандаш**, **словарь**, **стол**, **врач**, **рюкзак**. Note the shift in stress in their plural forms.

карандаш → карандаши
словарь → словари
стол → столы
врач → врачи
рюкзак → рюкзаки



We have two feminine nouns that undergo a similar stress shift in the plural, but in the opposite direction.

доска → доски
стена → стены

Личные местоимения (Personal pronouns)

Singular		Plural	
I	**я**	we	**мы**
you[a]	**ты**	you[b]	**вы**
he	**он**	they	**они**
she	**она**		
it	**оно**		

[a]singular/familiar [b]plural/formal

When using a personal pronoun to substitute for a noun, you must use the one that corresponds to the noun's gender, regardless of whether it is animate or inanimate. For example, **ручка** (*pen*) is a feminine noun. Therefore, when using a pronoun to refer to the pen, you would use **она**. **Стол** is masculine; therefore, you would use **он**. **Письмо** is neuter; therefore, you would use **оно**. For plural nouns, gender no longer matters; the plural personal pronoun is the same for all nouns: **они**.

Где ручка? Вот она.
Where is the pen? Here it is.

Где стул? Он там.
Where is the chair? It is there.

Где окно? Оно здесь.
Where is the window? It is here.

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Где О́льга и Борис? Они там.
Where are Olga and Boris? They are there.

Note the difference between **вот** and **здесь/тут**. **Вот** means *here* in the sense of presenting something to someone or pointing something out.

Где ручка? Вот она.
Where is the pen? *Here* it is.

Здесь and **тут** refer to the location of something. They are essentially interchangable, though **тут** is more colloquial.

Где ручка? Она здесь.
Where's the pen? It's *here*.

Где Миша? Он тут.
Where is Misha? He's *here*.

Притяжательные местоимения (Possessive pronouns)

Like personal pronouns and adjectives, most possessive pronouns will have different endings corresponding to case, gender, and number. Possessive pronouns in the third person have only one form, regardless of the gender, case, or number of the noun. Learn to appreciate them: that means only one form to memorize!

his: **его**[1]
her: **её**
their: **их**

[1]In some instances, for the most part predictable, **г** is pronounced **в**. This is the case with the word for *his*: **его** is pronounced **ево**. This word is so common that you will very quickly be pronouncing it correctly without even thinking about it.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
my	**мой**	**моя**	**моё**	**мои**
your[a]	**твой**	**твоя**	**твоё**	**твои**
our	**наш**	**наша**	**наше**	**наши**
your[b]	**ваш**	**ваша**	**ваше**	**ваши**

[a]familiar [b]plural or formal

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The ending of the possessive pronoun will then reflect the gender or number of the noun it goes with, not the gender or number of the owner.

мой словарь	my dictionary
моё письмо	my letter
моя книга	my book
мои карты	my maps

Прилагательные (Adjectives)

Agreement in case, number, and gender will be reflected in adjective endings as well. Adjectives can be either hard or soft (this should not be confused with the hardness or softness of nouns—adjectives themselves can be soft and will then always take a soft ending, regardless of whether or not the noun they modify is hard or soft). This also requires memorization of which is which, but, fortunately, very few adjectives are soft. So far, you have only one soft adjective: **синий** (*dark blue*); all the rest are hard.

The dictionary form of an adjective will be masculine. The last two letters (usually either **-ый** or **-ой**) function as the ending. They will then be removed and replaced by other endings if the adjective modifies a feminine, neuter, or plural noun. Like possessive pronouns, they will also change when the noun is in a different case, but we don't have to worry about that right now. Below is a chart of adjective endings in the nominative case.

Masculine		Feminine		Neuter		Plural	
Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft	Hard	Soft
-ый, -ой[a]	**-ий**	**-ая**	**-яя**	**-ое**	**-ее**	**-ые**	**-ие**

[a]Note that the masculine ending is **-ой** for adjectives that take stress on the ending. The feminine, neuter, and plural endings remain the same regardless of where stress falls.

An adjective modifying a masculine noun will have a masculine ending, but when the same adjective modifies a feminine noun, it will have a feminine ending, and so on.

ЗАПО́МНИТЕ! (Remember!)
Everything must agree in case, gender, and number!

новый дом	new house
новая карта	new map
новое окно	new window
новые комнаты	new rooms

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синий карандаш	blue pencil
синяя ручка	blue pen
синее море	blue sea
синие кольца	blue rings

Adding possessive pronouns to these phrases follows the same procedure.

наш новый дом	our new house
наше новое окно	our new window
наша новая карта	our new map
наши новые газеты	our new newspapers

Spelling rules

Certain vowels will undergo a change when they follow certain consonants. These are common, predictable occurrences (and we can see them reflected in many of the words we've already learned). Memorize these rules now and you will avoid making a lot of spelling mistakes.

Rule 1

After **г**, **ж**, **к**, **х**, **ш**, **щ**, and **ч**, you cannot write **ы**; instead, write **и**. We will frequently need to add **ы** to words when making nouns plural or when adding masculine or plural adjective endings. Note, for example, how this spelling rule is illustrated in the plural form of the following words.

книга → книги **ручка → ручки**

These are hard nouns, so you would expect to add the hard ending **ы**, but the spelling rule necessitates the change to "**и**."

Similar changes occur in some adjectives:

маленький, **маленькая**, **маленькое**, **маленькие**

The feminine and neuter forms of this adjective are not affected by the spelling rule and therefore take their regular endings. Because the stem of the adjective ends in **к**, the **ы** which would normally be added becomes **и** instead.

***Remember, so far we have only one soft adjective: **синий**. Adjectives like **маленький**, **хороший**, and **русский** are not soft; they are simply affected by the spelling rule.

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Rule 2

After **г**, **ж**, **к**, **х**, **ц**, **ч**, **ш**, and **щ**, you cannot write **я** or **ю**. When a grammatical situation arises in which you would need to add these vowels to these consonants (usually in verb conjugation), you would use **а** or **у** instead, respectively. We'll see examples of this type of spelling change later.

Rule 3

After **ж**, **ч**, **ш**, **щ**, and **ц**, you cannot have an unstressed **о**. If a grammatical situation demands that an unstressed **о** be placed after one of these letters (usually when declining nouns and adjectives), you must use **е** instead.

For example, the adjective **хорóший** is a hard adjective. The masculine and plural endings are affected by the first spelling rule and therefore are spelled -**ий** and -**ие** instead of -**ый** and -**ые**. Since the stress in this word falls on the second syllable, the neuter ending will be affected by the third spelling rule: the -**ое** which would normally be added must be replaced with -**ее**.

хорóшее письмó a good letter

Note again that this affects only situations where the **о** doesn't fall under stress. If it takes the stress, as in the adjective **большóй**, for example, it's not a problem:

Это наш большóй русский словарь.
This is our big Russian dictionary.

Russian names

Russians are born with their middle names; they're not something chosen by the parents. A Russian's middle name is called a *patronymic*. It comes from the father's first name and has either a masculine or feminine suffix meaning *son of* or *daughter of*, respectively. It is common in Russian to address someone you don't know well, or someone who is in a position of authority, by both the first name and patronymic. This is far more common than addressing a person by his or her last name. The masculine patronymic suffix is -**ович** (-**евич** if the proper noun has a soft ending).

Иван → Иван<u>ович</u>

For example, Nikolai's father is Ivan, so he is Nikolai, son of Ivan:

Николай Иванович

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Similarly, Ivan's father is Andrei:

Иван Андреевич

The feminine patronymic suffix is **-овна** (**-евна** if the proper noun has a soft ending).

Иван → Ивановна **Андрей → Андреевна**

Nikolai's sister is Anna, so she is:

А́нна Ивановна

Ivan's sister is Olga, so she is:

О́льга Андреевна

Since using a patronymic implies respect and a certain distancing between the speakers, the polite form of you (**вы**) and your (**ваш**) would normally be used.

Э́то ваша книга, Фёдор Павлович?
Is this your book, Fyodor Pavlovich?

Last names will also reflect gender and number. The feminine ending for a last name is **-а**; the plural ending is **-ы** (just like other nouns — remember, names are a type of noun).

Алексей Каренин
А́нна Каренина
Алексей и А́нна Каренины

Thus, **Пётр**, whose father is **Антон** and whose last name is **Иванов**, would be **Пётр Антонович Иванов**. His sister **Ирина** would be **Ирина Антоновна Иванова**. Together they would be **Ивановы**.

Э́то Ивановы — Пётр и Ирина.
These are the Ivanovs — Pyotr and Irina.

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Russian names can also form all sorts of affectionate diminutives. This occurs in English (Robert can be Bob or Rob or Bobby or Robby), but not quite as frequently or with such variety. Here are some common diminutives (there are more in the appendix in the back of the book).

Masculine	Feminine
Александр → Саша	**Александра → Саша**
Алексей → Алёша	**Анна → Аня**
Борис → Боря	**Екатерина → Катя**
Иван → Ваня	**Ирина → Ира**
Николай → Коля	**Мария → Маша**
Пётр → Петя	**Наталья → Наташа**
Сергей → Серёжа	**Ольга → Оля**

Even diminutives can have diminutives: **Маша** can be **Машенька**, **Таня** can be **Танечка**, and so on.

Diminutives will be used most frequently for children and among people who are close — family members and close friends. For this reason, the use of a diminutive will also usually be accompanied by the familiar form of *you* (**ты**).

Э́то твои́ бума́ги, Ма́ша? Алёша, где твоя́ ка́рта?
Are these your papers, Masha? Alyosha, where is your map?

Expressing *and*

In this lesson we're given two words that are translated as *and*: **а** and **и**. What's the difference?

А is used as a mild *but*; it separates rather than unites.

Э́то каранда́ш, а э́то ру́чка.
This is a pencil, and [but] that is a pen.

И is used to unite things.

Э́то каранда́ш и ру́чка.
These are a pencil and pen.

Note how the **а** separates, while the **и** unites in the following expressions.

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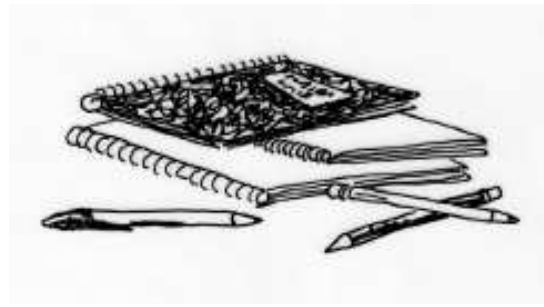
Где тетради и карандаши?
Where are the notebooks and pencils?



Нина и Катя русские студентки.
Nina and Katya are Russian students.

Как дела? Хорошо, а у вас/тебя?
How are you? Good, and you?

Как тебя зовут? Меня зовут Катя, а тебя?
What's your name? My name is Katya, and yours?

Наш дом белый, а их дом синий.
Our house is white, and [but] their house is dark blue.

Культура (Culture)

Пословицы и идиомы (Proverbs and idioms)

1. Зна́ет ко́шка, чьё мя́со съе́ла.
2. Ста́рость — не ра́дость.
3. Я — после́дняя бу́ква алфави́та.
4. Язы́к мой — враг мой.

кошка: cat
знает: knows
мясо: meat
съела: ate
старость: old age
радость: joy
последняя: last
язык: tongue
враг: enemy

Скороговорки (Tongue twisters)

Шла Са́ша по шоссе́ и соса́ла су́шку.

Стихи (Poetry)

The Russian poet **Александр Сергеевич Пушкин** (1799-1837) is perhaps the most beloved literary figure in Russia and is widely considered the father of Russian literature. Almost every Russian can quote lines from his poetry. Here's an early work of his, written when he was in his teens.

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Зо́лото и була́т

«Всё моё», — сказа́ло зла́то;
«Всё моё», — сказа́л була́т.
«Всё куплю́», — сказа́ло зла́то;
«Всё возьму́», — сказа́л була́т.

1814

золото: gold
булат: damask steel sword
всё: everything
сказал/о: said
куплю: I will buy
возьму: I will take

Советская пропаганда (Soviet propaganda)

Propaganda posters from the Soviet era had both social and political messages. They also serve as a rich and interesting source for learning and practicing Russian. The first one here should give you no problem; use a dictionary to figure out the second.

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Разговорная практика (Conversation practice)

Разговорные выражения (Conversational expressions)

Greeting and taking leave of someone:

Здравствуйте. Здравствуй. Привет.
Доброе утро. Добрый день. Добрый вечер.
Как дела? А у вас? А у тебя?
Хорошо. Плохо. Неплохо. Ничего. Нормально.
До свидания. Пока.

Getting acquainted:

Как вас зовут? Как тебя зовут?
Меня зовут...
А вас? А тебя?
Óчень приятно.

Requesting information:

Как по-русски...? Как по-английски...?
Как это по-русски? Как это по-английски?
Скажите, пожалуйста...

If you didn't hear or understand something:

Что-что?
Повторите, пожалйуста.

Мини-диалоги (Mini-dialogues)

1. —Приве́т, как дела́?
   —Норма́льно. У тебя́ как?
   —Да ничего́.

2. —Тебя́ как зову́т?
   —Что-что?
   —Как тебя́ зову́т?
   —А, меня́ зову́т А́нна.

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3. —Как тебя́ зову́т?
—Га́ля.
—О́чень прия́тно. А меня́ Михаи́л.
—О́чень прия́тно.
—А кто ты така́я?
—Я студе́нтка.
—Поня́тно.

4. —Скажи́те, как вас зову́т?
—Алексе́й Ива́нович.
—Алексе́й Ива́нович, о́чень прия́тно.
—А вас как зову́т?
—Меня́ Еле́на Серге́евна.
—О́чень прия́тно.

5. —Как по-ру́сски “notebook”?
—Что-что?
—Как по-ру́сски “notebook”?
—Я не зна́ю.

6. *In a store*
—Здра́вствуйте.
—До́брый день.
—Скажи́те, пожа́луйста, что э́то тако́е?
—Вот э́то? Э́то плака́т.
—Поня́тно. Спаси́бо.
—Пожа́луйста.
—До свида́ния.
—До свида́ния.

Практика (Practice)

Зада́ние 1: Identify the following items in your classroom.

Образец: Там журна́л. Карти́на тут.

1. стол
2. ка́рта
3. уче́бник
4. плака́т
5. стул
6. окно́
7. доска́
8. кни́га
9. дверь
10. карти́на
11. ла́мпа
12. ру́чка

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Зада́ние 2: Act out the following dialogue with classmates. Substitute different names and professions in this pattern. Remember to change the modifiers to reflect gender or number.

—Кто э́то тако́й?
—Э́то мой преподава́тель, Серге́й Никола́евич.
—Да? Он краси́вый. А кто э́то така́я?
—Э́то А́нна Ви́кторовна. Она́ изве́стная арти́стка.
—Она́ ру́сская?
—Да, она́ ру́сская арти́стка.
—Поня́тно.

Зада́ние 3: Act out the following dialogue with classmates. Substitute different nouns in this pattern. Remember to change the modifiers to reflect gender or number.

—Скажи́те, пожа́луйста, э́то ваш каранда́ш?
—Нет, не мой. Мой каранда́ш там.
—А э́то ва́ша тетра́дь?
—Да, моя́.

Зада́ние 4: Introduce yourself to your classmates using greetings, farewells, and conversation patterns introduced in this lesson.

Зада́ние 5: Replace the underlined words in the examples with the words below. Answer the question using personal pronouns instead of nouns.

Образе́ц: —Где ру́чка? —Вот она́. Она́ там/здесь/тут.

1.	стул	7.	стол	13.	дверь
2.	кни́га	8.	рюкза́к	14.	карти́на
3.	окно́	9.	студе́нтка	15.	плака́т
4.	студе́нт	10.	газе́та	16.	преподава́тель
5.	ка́рта	11.	доска́	17.	письмо́
6.	каранда́ш	12.	кольцо́	18.	компью́тер

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Упражне́ния (Exercises)

Упражне́ние 1: Determine the gender of the following nouns.

1.	музе́й	6.	фами́лия	11.	Москва́	16.	мост
2.	врач	7.	зда́ние	12.	сло́во	17.	Чика́го
3.	маши́на	8.	руба́шка	13.	кольцо́	18.	муж
4.	геро́й	9.	галере́я	14.	го́род	19.	со́лнце
5.	магази́н	10.	мо́ре	15.	пе́сня	20.	пробле́ма

Упражне́ние 2: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of **чей**, **чья**, **чьё**, **чьи**.

1. _____ э́то кни́га?
2. _____ э́то бума́ги?
3. _____ э́то тетра́дь?
4. _____ э́то газе́та?
5. _____ э́то журна́лы?
6. _____ э́то кольцо́?
7. _____ э́то кабине́т?
8. _____ э́то аудито́рия?
9. _____ э́то письмо́?
10. _____ э́то карандаши́?

Упражне́ние 3: Form the plural of the following nouns. Mark stress.

1.	музе́й	6.	зда́ние	11.	руба́шка
2.	маши́на	7.	упражне́ние	12.	пе́сня
3.	геро́й	8.	мо́ре	13.	кольцо́
4.	магази́н	9.	де́ло	14.	студе́нтка
5.	каранда́ш	10.	сло́во	15.	кни́га

Упражне́ние 4: Replace the following nouns with pronouns in the blanks (watch out for plurals!).

*Образе́ц: Где рюкза́к? Вот **он**.*

1. Где мел? _____ здесь.
2. Где студе́нтка? _____ там.
3. Где президе́нт? Вот _____.
4. Где мо́ре? _____ там.
5. Где стул? _____ здесь.

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6. Где ру́чки? Вот _____.
7. Где на́ша ко́мната? Вот _____.
8. Где Бе́лый дом? _____ там.
9. Где дверь? Вот _____.
10. Где письмо́? Вот _____.
11. Где ка́рта? _____ там.
12. Где о́кна? _____ там.

Упражне́ние 5: Supply the correct form of the possessive pronouns in the following phrases.

1. _____ [my] кни́га
2. _____ [his] дом
3. _____ [your pl.] ко́мната
4. _____ [my] стол
5. _____ [our] ко́мната
6. _____ [my] письмо́
7. _____ [your sing.] сло́во
8. _____ [her] ру́чка
9. _____ [our] врач
10. _____ [our] окно́

Упражне́ние 6: Supply the correct form of the possessive pronouns in the following phrases.

1. _____ [your sing.] журна́лы
2. _____ [their] тетра́ди
3. _____ [my] уче́бники
4. _____ [her] ко́льца
5. _____ [our] карандаши́
6. _____ [your pl.] сту́лья
7. _____ [our] о́кна
8. _____ [their] пи́сьма
9. _____ [your pl.] дома́
10. _____ [his] слова́

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Упражне́ние 7: Answer the following questions according to the model.

Образе́ц: Где ваш дом? Наш дом там. Он там.

1. Где ваш кабине́т?
2. Где моя́ ла́мпа?
3. Где твоя́ студе́нтка?
4. Где на́ши юри́сты?
5. Где Ива́н?
6. Где Ма́ша и Ири́на?
7. Где твой стул?
8. Где на́ше письмо́?
9. Где твой плака́т?
10. Где твоя́ ру́чка?

Упражне́ние 8: Supply the correct ending of the possessive pronouns in the following phrases. If no ending is needed, leave blank.

Образе́ц: Э́то моё письмо́, а э́то ва́ше письмо́.

1. Э́то тво__ компью́тер, а э́то наш__ компью́тер.
2. Э́то наш__ аудито́рия, а э́то ваш__ аудито́рия.
3. Э́то мо__ ру́чки, а э́то тво__ ру́чки.
4. Э́то мо__ тетра́дь, а э́то тво__ тетра́дь.
5. Э́то ваш__ стол, а э́то мо__ стол.
6. Э́то тво__ уче́бник, а э́то мо__ уче́бник.
7. Э́то ваш__ бума́ги, а э́то наш__ бума́ги.
8. Э́то мо__ дверь, а э́то тво__ дверь.

Упражне́ние 9: Decline the following adjectives to correspond to the nouns given.

1. beautiful
   a. _____ дом
   b. _____ карти́на
   c. _____ сло́во
   d. _____ студе́нты

2. white
   a. _____ стол
   b. _____ дверь
   c. _____ мо́ре
   d. _____ ко́мнаты

3. bad
   a. _____ худо́жник
   b. _____ арти́стка
   c. _____ письмо́
   d. _____ аудито́рии

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4. dark blue
   a. _____ слова́рь
   b. _____ ла́мпа
   c. _____ кольцо́
   d. _____ плака́ты

5. interesting
   a. _____ инжене́р
   b. _____ спортсме́нка
   c. _____ сло́во
   d. _____ студе́нты

6. small
   a. _____ рюкза́к
   b. _____ доска́
   c. _____ окно́
   d. _____ карти́ны

Упражне́ние 10: Supply the correct ending of the possessive pronouns and adjectives in the following phrases.

1. Вот мо__ стар__ кни́ги.
2. Э́то тво__ чёрн__ ру́чка?
3. Как__ краси́в__ карти́на!
4. Где мо__ бел__ мел?
5. Э́то некраси́в__ ла́мпа. Э́то ваш__?
6. Вот наш__ хоро́ш__ письмо́.

Упражне́ние 11: Change the following phrases from singular to plural. Mark stress.

Образе́ц: краси́вый врач → краси́вые врачи́

1. молодо́й преподава́тель
2. интере́сная кни́га
3. плохо́й арти́ст
4. большо́й слова́рь
5. ма́ленькое окно́
6. ру́сская бу́ква
7. англи́йское сло́во
8. симпати́чный студе́нт
9. ста́рая дверь
10. но́вый каранда́ш

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Упражне́ние 12: Change the following sentences from singular to plural. Mark stress.

Образе́ц: Э́то моя́ но́вая ру́чка. → Э́то мои́ но́вые ру́чки.

1. Э́то наш симпати́чный врач.
2. Э́то твой кра́сный рюкза́к?
3. Где моё интере́сное письмо́?
4. Вот ва́ша си́няя кни́га.
5. Э́то на́ша больша́я аудито́рия.
6. Где его́ чёрный слова́рь?
7. Твоё окно́ ма́ленькое.
8. Э́то моя́ ста́рая ка́рта.

Упражнение 13: Write three variations for each sentence, filling in the blank with a different adjective and/or noun for each variation. Make sure you choose words that agree in number or gender.

1. Како́й _____ дом!
2. Како́е _____ письмо́!
3. Где моя́ _____ ру́чка?
4. Кака́я краси́вая _____ !
5. Он тако́й _____ .
6. Како́е э́то _____?
7. Где на́ши _____ _____?
8. Э́то ва́ша _____ _____?
9. Э́то твой _____ _____?

Упражне́ние 14: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word in brackets.

1. Где _____ [Red] мо́ре? Вот _____ [it].
2. _____ [What] ста́рые кни́ги!
3. Его́ пи́сьма _____ [old]. _____ [They] там.
4. Э́то _____ [big] кварти́ра? Я не зна́ю. Она́ не _____ [mine].
5. Где _____ [White] дом? _____ [It] тут.
6. _____ [What a] больша́я ко́мната! Э́то _____ [yours pl.]?
7. Мой каранда́ш _____ [black]. Вот _____ [it].
8. Э́то _____ [interesting] кни́ги? Я не зна́ю.
9. Где _____ [dark blue] бума́га? _____ [It] там?
10. Кто э́то? Э́то _____ [new] инжене́ры.
11. Э́то _____ [ugly] поэ́т. Где _____ [he]?

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Упражне́ние 15: Compose 10 sentences using a word from each column. Remember that each word must agree in number and gender.

вот	мой	краси́вый	рюкза́к
э́то	твой	бе́лый	тетра́дь
где	его	плохо́й	сло́варь
здесь	её	ста́рый	карти́на
тут	их	ру́сский	кольцо́
там	наш	си́ний	у́чебники
	ваш	хоро́ший	компью́тер
		большо́й	окно́
		интере́сный	каранда́ш
		но́вый	ла́мпа

Упражне́ние 16: Translate the following sentences. Remember that each word must agree in number and gender.

1. This is my nice new teacher.
2. Where is your beautiful white house?
3. I don't know where my new blue pen is.
4. Your big red books are there.
5. Here is his interesting picture.
6. What are these? These are my ugly old tables.
7. What a beautiful blue sea!

Упражнение 17: See how well you can negotiate the following situations. Write or act them out; use as much new vocabulary as you can.

1. You're in your room in the dormitory. It's parents weekend and you want to show your parents everything in your room while practicing Russian at the same time (and they miraculously understand you!). Remember to use adjectives and possessive pronouns to describe the nouns you use.

2. Draw a plan of your Russian classroom and show others what's where.

3. You meet a Russian exchange student in the hall outside your classroom. Get acquainted and practice your Russian.

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